

By: Mrs Hohler, Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education

KCC Environment Board (Chair: Amanda Honey)

Grahame Ward, Director of Resources

Carolyn McKenzie, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager

To: Children, Families and Education Policy Overview Committee

18th September 2009

Subject:	A summary of progress in delivery of KCC's Environment Policy, including climate change and an overview of next steps for KCC and the Children, Families and Education Directorate.
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Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:	The Kent County Council Environment Policy was agreed by Cabinet in December 2007. As part of that process KCC committed to reviewing progress on implementation on an annual basis. This report highlights what significant progress has been made to date on delivering the Environment Policy (including climate change) and sets out priorities for the next 3 years (2009-2012), together with the specific role and contribution of the Children, Families and Education Directorate (CFE).
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Introduction

1 (1) In December 2007 Kent County Council agreed a new Environment Policy (Annex 1). It was agreed by Cabinet that progress in implementing this policy would be reported annually together with any recommendations for amendments. The co-ordination and overall management of KCC's Environment Policy is the led by the Environment Board supported by the Environment and Waste Division.

(2) In addition to this, in September 2008, the Cabinet Working Group on Climate Change took papers to each of the five Directorate Policy Overview Committees (POCs) that summarised progress to date in each directorate in response to climate change, and sought support for and commitment to next steps. All five papers were approved by the respective Committees in their entirety and have become the basis for continued programmes of work in each Directorate, with ongoing support from the central climate change programme team. Each Directorate is required to report progress to their POC on a six-monthly basis commencing March 2009.

(3) This paper will seek to combine these two processes providing one update for 'sustainability and climate change' as well as fulfilling requirements of the KCC ISO14001 reporting process.

(4) Included in this report are recommendations as to strategic priorities for KCC for the next three years, together with an indication of the specific role of the Children, Families and Education and any potential changes needed to the existing KCC Environment Policy.

Changing Policy Context

2 (1) Since agreeing the KCC Environment Policy a number of new policy drivers have arisen.

(2) The Climate Change Act 2008 creates a platform to increase momentum both internally and externally for mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. It includes a new target of an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050 (26% by 2020) compared to 1990 levels which will require a review of current KCC policy (we currently have a 60% target). This translates to a 4% reduction per year.

(3) The Carbon Reduction Commitment is a new, legally binding climate change and energy saving scheme affecting all large businesses and public sector organisations. KCC will be required to submit annual data statements on a self-certified basis and purchase carbon credits to cover our total annual emissions. It is currently anticipated that the purchase of Carbon Allowances will cost KCC around £1.3 million per annum, plus our performance will be listed in a league table each year, which will effectively determine whether we are 'refunded' or not (or equivalent explanation).

(4) Kent Agreement 2 includes two targets related to climate change - NI 186: CO2 emissions within Kent and NI 188: Preparing to adapt to climate change. These targets are being delivered through a pan-Kent partnership with the public and private sectors.

(5) The Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) replaces the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) from 2009. CAA is a new approach that will provide the first independent assessment of the prospects for local areas and the quality of life for people living there and include Kent performance on environment and climate change

(6) Chapter 6 of *Unlocking Kent's Potential: Opportunities and Challenges - Kent's Framework for Regeneration 2009-2020* is focussed on the climate challenge and highlights some of the critical opportunities.

Overview of KCC's Environment Policy

3 (1) The agreed vision of KCC's Environment Policy is '*to stabilise and progressively reduce our environmental footprint: to progressively reduce our carbon dioxide emissions and make sure our estate and services are adapted to the future impacts and opportunities of climate change: and to contribute positively to Kent's character, local environmental quality and natural environment.*' Significant progress has been made. Highlights are given below under each of the Environment Policy headings. Annex 2 gives more detail and assessment against the targets.

(2) Our Decisions

- Achievement of ISO14001 accreditation for all of KCC - April 2009.

- Sustainability and climate change included in every Directorate's induction and business planning process.

(3) Our Estate

- 5% decrease in office carbon emissions since 2004.
- Over £1 million pounds invested or committed to energy efficiency measures giving lifetime savings of £1.1m and 6695 tonnes of CO₂
- Over 25 renewable energy initiatives including 10 solar and 4 biomass boilers
- 50% recycling rate at County Hall

(4) Our Travel and Transport

- On course to achieve a reduction in business miles across KCC for 2008-9
- 642 tonnes of CO₂ saved through Kent Car Share

(5) Our Procurement

- Achievement of Level 3 on the flexible framework.
- Environmental business support programme set up to assist KCC's supply chain

(6) Our Construction

- Development of a sustainable construction policy
- Almost all KCC buildings are designed to BREEAM Very Good

(7) Our Workforce

- Over 160 green guardians across KCC, a 100% increase in 2008, with several 'Green Teams' set up and almost 100 staff attending a cross KCC 'Good Deeds Grow' event.

(8) Our Community Leadership

- More than half of Kent schools with some form of Eco Schools Award
- Approximately 8803 tonnes of CO₂ saved and £278,568 of economic benefits achieved as a result of the Low Carbon Communities pilot programme.

(9) The Environment Policy also contains a number of specific targets: 10% reduction in carbon, 7% reduction in water use; 10% reduction in waste and a 50% recycling rate, all by 2010. Currently all targets are on track apart from carbon reduction which remains rated red with the last annual Towards 2010 monitoring showing only a 3% decrease.

Emerging Priorities for KCC over the next Three Years

4 (1) The sustainability and climate change agenda is broad and far reaching in terms of both risk and opportunity for KCC. Five key themes and a number of objectives are therefore proposed for the next 3 years to progress and integrate the delivery of the Environment Policy and climate change challenges:

- Leadership and Environmental Management
- Meeting the Climate Challenge

- Water Wise and Efficient
- Towards Zero Waste to Landfill
- High Quality Landscapes

(2) Annex 3 provides a summary of the Five Themes. A draft Sustainability and Climate Change three year plan is currently being put together for consultation at the end of June 2009. This will incorporate issues and concerns raised by Members at this Committee meeting. The remainder of this paper focuses on action CFE has been involved in and it is proposed should contribute to in the future.

Progress on specific action owned directly by CFE

5 (1) **Our Decisions:** CFE were accredited to ISO14001 at the end of April 09. There is now a specific CFE Environment Policy and sustainability and climate change actions have been included in all business plans. Units are now developing plans to reduce environmental impacts, and this year CFE will look at how to include schools in the scope of their ISO14001.

(2) **Our Estate:** The most significant proportion of projects undertaken through the Energy Water Investment Fund are in the schools estate. In particular, almost 20 renewable energy projects including 2 biomass boilers, solar panels and a wind turbine. The Sustainability and Climate Change Team in KCC are continuing to work with the schools estate to improve energy and water efficiency and install renewable energy measures where possible.

(3) **Our Travel and Transport:** CFE have established their baseline business miles data and are now in the process of setting a business miles target for 2009-10.

(4) **Our Procurement/Our Construction:** Through the Building Schools for the Future programme, CFE have a great opportunity to lead the way on sustainability and climate change issues through procurement and construction. All BSF schools have to achieve at least BREEAM Very Good. In addition, 3 of the schools in Wave 3 are installing Biomass Boilers, with the potential for more in Wave 4.

(5) **Our Workforce:** There are now over 40 Green Guardian actively participating and undertaking sustainability and climate change improvements in CFE. Representation from CFE at a cross KCC event 'Good Deeds Grow' in February was high, with enthusiastic contributions being made. In addition, almost 70 staff have now received online training.

(6) **Community Leadership:** CFE continue to play a strong community leadership role. Almost half of Kent schools now have some level of Eco Schools accreditation, (Bronze to Green Flags), more than 400 schools have Sustainable Travel Plans. In addition, Skinners School have been nominated for a national sustainable schools award, and KCC are leading the way in the South East and are a Sustainable Schools KCC study for the GOSE region.

(7) **Climate Change Adaptation:** Workshops are continuing across KCC to establish the risks and vulnerabilities from climate change. Impacts and responses identified as part of this process will be reviewed in light of emerging new national climate change scenario predications and appropriate amendments to responses

and climate proofing put in place. The need for a cross CFE workshop to address climate change risks has been identified and is being scheduled for the early autumn.

Future Challenges and Opportunities for CFE

6 (1) The main challenge and opportunity for CFE will be continuing to tackle carbon reduction in light of the Carbon Reduction Commitment and ensuring that Building Schools for the Future achieves its potential as a 'breakthrough' project with regards to climate change and sustainability.

(2) Schools, and therefore CFE account for the largest proportion of KCC carbon emissions, and therefore if KCC is to fulfil its obligations under the Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment there must continue to be a step change in actions to reduce CO₂ in the schools estate.

(3) Furthermore, from a wider community and child poverty angle, CFE will need to work closely with other departments in KCC on issues of fuel poverty, a consequence of rising oil/fuel prices. Fuel poverty in Kent has risen considerably over the last few years, and the potential for negative impacts on fuel poverty and educational attainment are significant.

(4) However, there are many opportunities. BSF schools will continue to give KCC an opportunity to showcase their commitment to sustainability and climate change. In addition, continued uptake of the Eco Schools programme will reflect very well in the Ofsted process, which now includes sustainability and climate change issues.

(5) On a wider note, the broader sustainable schools agenda has the potential to provide significant additional benefits and added value especially in terms of citizenship and pupil development. Through linking diverse agendas such as extended and healthy schools, international schools and the curriculum under the banner of sustainable schools the opportunity exists for KCC to become an exemplar, not just in the south east but nationally.

Conclusion

7 (1) Kent County Council has made good progress towards the implementation of the KCC Environment Policy and achievement of KCC's Climate Change Commitments. However, the Towards 2010 10% carbon reduction target remains rated RED, and in the face of increasing policy, economic and regulatory drivers it is recommended that a significant proportion of activity for KCC and CFE over the next 3 years should focus on this area.

(2) Though there will be a need to revise the KCC Environment Policy and the KCC Climate Change Policy in light of new Government Climate Change targets, it is recommended that this is the focus in 2010 when more information is available.

Recommendations

8	Members are asked to:
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| <p>a. Note progress to date and the general shape of the Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan going forward;</p> <p>b. Agree the proposed next steps for CFE, in particular as outlined at <u>Section 6</u></p> |
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Background Documents:

- CFE POC Paper – September 2008

Other Useful Information: None

Annex 1:

KCC's Environment Policy

Kent County Council Environment Policy

At Kent County Council, elected members and staff alike recognise that protection and enhancement of the environment is the key to sustaining a high quality of life in Kent. We recognise that our own activities have an impact on the environment, that we have a responsibility to ensure that these impacts are positive, and that our use of natural resources is minimised.

Our vision:

To stabilise and progressively reduce our environmental footprint; to progressively reduce our carbon dioxide emissions and make sure our estate and services are adapted to the future impacts and opportunities of climate change; and to contribute positively to Kent's character, local environmental quality and natural environment

We will do this by applying an evidence-led approach to sustainability, identifying the potential for cost savings wherever possible and committing to environmental policies and standards in the following areas:

Our decisions:

We will:

- Expect every manager and decision-maker in KCC to demonstrate how they comply with this Policy
- Integrate environmental considerations into our strategic and day-to-day decision-making processes, and give significant weight to them where they conflict with other objectives
- Assess key decisions for their environmental impact, taking a pragmatic whole-life-cost view, and use such assessments to fully inform decision-making
- 'Climate proof' decisions to ensure they reduce our contribution to climate change and help us prepare for the impacts and opportunities of unavoidable climate change, including where appropriate enabling biodiversity and coastal areas to adapt to climate change in line with the KCC Climate Change Action Plan
- Continue to comply with all relevant environmental legislation and statutory duties
- Seek to embrace new environmental technology and methodologies to ensure we are at the leading edge of developments and solutions, within a well-managed risk-analysis and cost-benefit framework

Our estate

We will:

- Reduce energy use within our estate to meet carbon reduction targets of 10% by 2010 and 20% by 2015
- Increase the proportion of the energy needs of our existing estate met from renewable sources

- Reduce water use by 7.5% by 2010 across our estate
- Reduce waste generation across our estate by 10% by 2010, and increase the proportion of our corporate waste which is reused or recycled to 50% by 2010
- Maximise the efficient use of land in our Estate by reusing previously developed land and buildings wherever practical, before using greenfield land.
- Protect, enhance and restore biodiversity, the natural and historic environment within both our buildings and open space, including measures that support climate change adaptation
- Minimise light, noise, air and other forms of pollution arising from our estate
- Ensure KCC-owned highways comply with the relevant parts of this Policy

Our travel and transport

We will:

- Reduce our members and employees' need to travel, including through our estate strategy, locations selected for council events, use of public transport, teleconferencing and other sustainable solutions
- Achieve reductions in total business mileage travelled by employees, encourage greater car sharing and other sustainable solutions, without adversely affecting end-user service delivery
- Promote the use of fuel efficient vehicles and technologies through our vehicle fleet and lease car scheme

Our procurement

We will:

- Increase the proportion of goods and services sourced locally where there are environmental or employment benefits and in compliance with broader UK and EU purchasing legislation
- Work with our suppliers to ensure that they are taking action to reduce the environmental impacts of their businesses
- Identify those goods, including timber and paper, which can be obtained from certified sustainable sources and ensure that these supplies are used
- Work with suppliers to develop markets for environmental technologies, goods and services

Our construction

We will:

- Meet high standards of sustainable construction in all new KCC buildings and refurbishments, and in all developments on KCC-owned land. The BREEAM 'very good'/Code for Sustainable Buildings level 3 or equivalent standard is required as a minimum
- Require all new KCC buildings and refurbishments to assess the feasibility of developing on-site renewable energy to help meet energy needs
- Ensure that our estate and roads are planned and managed in ways which minimise the risk of flooding and do not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere
- Seek to avoid adverse impacts on biodiversity and comply with policy and legislative requirements

Our workforce

We will:

- Ensure that our members and employees understand the implications of environmental legislation and regulation, and exceed minimum environmental standards where possible
- Ensure that environmental awareness is raised and good environmental behaviour encouraged through our corporate training, performance appraisal and reward strategies
- Raise awareness of how to comply with all relevant environmental legislation and statutory duties

Our leadership role in the community

We will:

- Lead Kent's communities to a better understanding of the importance of our environment and help them value and enhance the environment locally and globally
- Set out and deliver a vision of environmental excellence with our partners in the Kent Partnership through regular review and implementation of the Kent Environment Strategy

We will set out detailed action plans and guidance for delivery of these commitments, so that colleagues across KCC have a clear basis for decision-making.

This Policy is owned by the KCC Environment Board who may choose to call decision-makers to account for compliance with these commitments and escalate as necessary to the Leader and Chief Executive. Any proposed exceptions to this Policy will need to provide a sound business case based on whole-life economic, social and environmental costs and benefits.

Kent County Council's Corporate Environmental Performance Group will oversee provision of advice and support, monitoring and reporting. In particular, the Group will lead embedding of these commitments in ISO14001 accreditation for the County Council as a whole by 2010. The Group will report via the KCC Environment Board to the Leader and Chief Executive.



Paul Carter
Leader

Peter Gilroy
Chief Executive

Published December 2007. This Policy and its successful implementation will be reviewed annually by the KCC Environment Board, escalating any changes as necessary to the Leader and Chief Executive.

Theme	ANNEX 2 - Progress Against the KCC Environment Policy	KCC Policy	Future Challenge
Our Decisions	<p>Achievement of ISO14001 accreditation for all of KCC by the end of April 2009.</p> <p>Sustainability and climate change included in every Directorates induction and business planning</p> <p>Sustainability Appraisal Guidance for Key Decisions</p>	AMBER	AMBER
Our Estate	<p>5% decrease in office carbon emissions since 2004.</p> <p>56 energy projects, £1 million+ invested or committed with £1.1m and 6695 tonnes of CO₂ saved over the project life time</p> <p>Over 25 renewable energy initiatives including 10 solar and 4 biomass boilers</p> <p>50% recycling rate at County Hall</p>	AMBER	RED
Our Travel and Transport	<p>On course to achieve a reduction in business miles across KCC for 2008-9</p> <p>642 tonnes of CO₂ saved through Kent Car Share</p>	GREEN	RED
Our Procurement	<p>Achievement of Level 3 on the flexible framework.</p> <p>Environmental business support programme set up to assist KCC's supply chain</p>	AMBER	AMBER
Our Construction	<p>Development of a sustainable construction policy</p> <p>Almost all KCC buildings are designed to BREEAM Very Good</p>	GREEN	AMBER
Our Workforce	<p>Over 150 green guardians, 100% increase includes Several 'Green Teams'</p> <p>QSA Environment Categories planned for every Directorate</p> <p>Environment 'Way to Success'</p>	GREEN	AMBER

**Our
Community
Leadership**

More than half of Kent schools with some form of Eco Schools Award
Almost 8803 tonnes of CO₂ saved, £278,568 of economic benefits from Low Carbon Communities

GREEN

AMBER

FIVE KEY THEMES - OVERVIEW

